Permission and South African Cricket Team

1280. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry was consulted and its approval obtained before permitting the recent visit of the South African Cricket Team to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such permission would be extended to other teams and sporting events in general and also to cultural delegations as well;

(d) the rationale behind this departure from our foreign policy on apartheid;

(e) whether the Government have proposed to lift economic sanctions on trade, commerce and industrial collaboration with South Africa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of External Affairs was consulted before an invitation was extended to the South African Cricket team to visit India. This Ministry's approval was given in consonance with the decision taken by the Commonwealth Summit in Harare.

(c) In conformity with the decision of the Commonwelath Summit, the Indian Government would also extend permission to other sporting disciplines which have been integrated multi-racially and which have been readmitted to the relevant international governing body. The cultural boycott has also been lifted by the Harare Commonwealth Summit.

(d) There has been no departure from India' traditional policy of whole-hearted support to the Anti-apartheid Movement. The decision of the Commonwealth Summit to lift people sanctions was supported by the African National Congress and, specifically in a letter addressed to our Prime Minister, by Dr. Nelson Mandela, President of the ANC. Apart from India, the other countries party to the above decision include, among others, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya and Namibiya.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Commonwealth Summit in Harare decided that '..... economic sanctions, including trade and investment measures, should be lifted when appropriate transitional mechanisms have been agreed which enable all the parties to participate fully and effectively in negotiations...' India is party to the above decision.

High Resolution Aero-Magnetic Survey in Orissa

1281. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 605 on July 25, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Phase-I of the project on High Resolution Aero-Magnetic Survey in Orissa has since begun; and

(b) if so, the details of the work proposed to be done under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir. Acceptance has not yet been received from the Australian side.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of Gold

1282. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate annual production of gold in the country, gold-field/gold-mine